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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS IN THE AFRICA REGION

A Report on Activities

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INTRODUCTION

1. The main sources of demographic data are population censuses demographic sample surveys and civil registration systems. This paper is intended to give an account of the activities in those three fields in the African region since the second session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

2. The focus of the discussion on the activities in population censuses will be the progress of African censuses during the period of the 1980 World Population and Housing Censuses Programme. In general, the Programme covers censuses conducted or expected to be conducted during the period 1975 to 1984. It may be recalled that at the last Joint Conference, it was reported that the 1980 round of censuses had already started and a number of countries had completed their census field operations. Some of those countries had then started publishing their census results and others were at the data processing stage of their census programmes. This paper will therefore deal mainly with developments since the last progress report on African censuses presented to the Joint Conference was prepared. The areas of discussion will include topics investigated in the censuses, census evaluation programmes, status of programmes for publication and dissemination of census results, problems encountered in the implementation of census programmes and the level of technical assistances which has been provided.

3. The developments in the field of civil registration and vital statistics systems have rather been on a low key but an account of the activities in that area of demographic data collection since the last Joint Conference will also be covered.

4. There will also be a brief statement on the status of demographic sample surveys during the period under consideration. The statement, however, will not cover survey activities in countries which have been enrolled in the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) since such activities have been discussed in the progress report on that programme (ST/ECA/PSD.3/4).

PROGRESS OF 1980 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PROGRAMMES

5. A population and housing census consists of three major phases, namely, pre-enumeration, enumeration and post-enumeration activities. At the time of the last Joint Conferences 20 countries (3 in North Africa, 3 in West Africa, 3 in Central Africa and 11 in Eastern and Southern Africa) had completed at least the enumeration phase of their census programmes in the 1980 round of censuses. Also 12 other countries had then conducted their censuses as part of the African Census Programme (ACP) during the period 1975 to 1979.

6. It may be recalled that the ACP was instituted to assist some African countries to carry out their censuses in the 1970 World Programmes of Population and Housing Censuses. However, as indicated above, 12 of the 22 countries enrolled in the ACP could not conduct their census enumeration during the period of the 1970 round of censuses because of various constraints which delyed the completion of their census pre-enumeration activities. The censuses of those countries were therefore conducted during the period of the 1980 round.

7. It was reported at the last Joint Conference that 16 countries were expected to conduct their population censuses during the period 1982 to 1984. At the time of writing this report 6 of the 16 countries had completed their census enumeration and 9 other were expected to conduct theirs by the end of December 1984. The first group of countries are: Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Morocco, Sudan and Zimbabwe. The second group comprises: Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Libya Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritius and Zaire. The remaining country, Sierra Leone, has postponed its census enumeration year from 1984 to 1985. It is therefore expected that by the end of 1985, with the exception of Nigeria and Chad all the 50 member States of ECA would have conducted censuses during the period of the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme. Nigeria conducted its last population census in 1973 but the results were subsequently cancelled by the Government and there is no information at ECA on plans for the next population census. In the case of Chad, the political situation has prevented it from conducteng a population census though it was one of the 22 ACP countries.

8. A census programme cannot be considered as complete until the results of the census have been processed and the resultant statistical tables and their analysis, interpretation and implications together with an account of the entire census experience published or otherwise made available to potential users in a manner suited to their needs. Thus the censuses which have been conducted in the African region in the 1980 round are in various stages of completion.

9. Annex I provides a summary of the status of African censuses during the period of the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme. The summary gives information on censuses at the preparatory activities stage as well as the position regarding the post-enumeration phase of censuses which have gone beyond the enumeration phase. It is clear from the information in the Annex that of the 38 census programmes with the enumeration phase completed by end of June 1983, the results of 25 have been either partially or fully published. Censuses in 11 countries are at various stages of data processing and of the two remaining censuses the results of one have been rejected by the Government concerned and loss of census questionnaires has rendered the other unrepresentative of the country. Plans have, however, been initiated for the processing of the available completed questionnaires to provide data for specific districts.

10. Data analysis and interpretation seem to be the weakest link in census programmes in the African region. In almost all cases except where census results have been cancelled or only partially accepted by Governments, census statistical tables have been published after a census enumeration has been conducted and the information processed. Census data analysis, however, have been either ignored altogether by the census organizers with the hope that individual researchers may take it up or only considered several years after the publication of the basic statistical tables. In a number of cases, analyses have been done under technical assistance projects by expatriate personnel with only minimal local personnel involvement, if at all. In a few instances however, census data analyses have been undertaken by local personnel with technical guidance and assistance of international experts.

11. It cannot be overemphasised that if the full potential usefulness of censuses are to be realized, then census data analysis needs to be considered as integral part of a census programme. Indeed a minimum programme of analysis should be prepared by the cenus organizers as part of the census preparatory activities. The programme should focus on the immediate needs of government for information required for decision-making, planning and administration. In view of the manpower constraints in many census offices in the African region, the planning and execution of the programme of analysis should be a co-operative effort involving not only the professional staff of census offices but also specialists from other relevant sections of statistical departments and other government agencies including the universities. Some countries have adopted that strategy but others are yet to explore it.

12. Another aspect of census programmes which deserve more considerations than is being given at the moment is the dissemination and effective use of census results. The efforts of census organizers should not end with the publication of the statistical tables nor even with the issue of the analytical report and abstracts of the census results. It is necessary that the census offices/statistical organizations take steps to promote the use of the results as widely as possible and also obtain feed-back as to whether the census is fulfilling its prime purpose of providing the data required for governmental decision-making and development planning programmes. Further the census organizers need to find out whether the census results are being presented in a manner suited to the needs of users.

13. In a number of countries the publication of the major census volumes has been followed with seminars/workshops which have brought the census organizers and the major data users such as planners and research workers together to engage in fruitful dialogues. The principal objectives of the seminars/workshops were to publicize the census results and ensure effective utilization of the census data. The seminars also provide data producers the opportunity to obtain the reaction of users to the form of census data presentation

TOPICS INVESTIGATED IN POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

14. As indicated in the progress report on censuses, demographic surveys and civil registration at the second session of the Joint Conference, the Working Group on Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses in Africa recommended a number of topics to be investigated in censuses in the African region. Those recommendations together with the global recommendations in the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses provided guidelines for the determination of topics investigated in censuses which have been conducted in many African countries during the period of the 1980 round of censuses.

15. The topics recommended by the Working Group are the following:-

Geographic characteristics

Place where found at time of census
Place of usual residence
Place of birth
Duration of residence
Place of work

Demographic and social characteristics

Age
Sex
Relationship to head of household
Nationality
Survival of parents
School attendance
Educational attainment
Literacy
Marital status
Number of children born alive
Children living
Births during last 12 months
Deaths during last 12 months

Economic characteristics

Type of activity
Occupation
Industry
Employment status

Housing conditions

Number of houses
Type of housing unit
Type of occupancy
Material/of wall/roof/floor
Source of water supply/light/fuel
Type of toilet
Bathing facilities
Number of rooms

From 1975 to end of June 1983, 38 African countries completed the census enumeration of their population census programmes. A review of the topics investigated in the censuses of those countries shows that 20 of them enquired into the following geographic items which are on the list of items recommended by the Working Group; place where found at time of census, place of usual residence and place of birth. Of the remaining two recommended topics on geographic characteristics 14 countries enquired into"duration of residence" and only 3 countries had "place of work" as questionnaire item in their censuses.

16. With respect to the topics on demographic and social characteristics, the question on survival of parents was the least popular. It was asked in the census of only 9 countries. The question on deaths during last twelve months was a questionnaire item in the censuses of 12 countries and the remaining recommended topics on demographic and social characteristics were investigated by 20 or more countries.

17. Most of the countries enquired into one or more of the recommended economic items. In fact only four countries - Kenya, Madagascar, Somalia and Uganda - did not investigate any of the economic topics in their latest censuses. A comparison of questionnaire items investigated by African countries in the 1970 round of censuses with those investigated in the 1980 round shows that some countries which, did not ask economic questions in the 1970 round, have enquired into one or more such items in the 1980 round. This is a positive development since data on economic characteristics of the population are often not available from other sources. If even data on economic characteristics are available from sample enquires, the opportunity to obtain cross-classification of economic and other socio-demographic data on a small area basis through a census should not be missed, particularly since an increasing number of countries in the region have embarked on decentralization programmes. Such programmes need small area statistics for plan formulation at sub-national or locality level.

18. It must be mentioned, however, that some amount of research still have to be undertaken to overcome the problems relating to definitions, concepts and classifications of economic items. In some countries, there has been the tendency to classify only females as "home-makers". In other countries, occupation was pre-coded on the census questionnaire thus limiting the number of occupational categories. Further, the distinction between current and usual activity status as well as the principle that participation in an economic activity should take precedence over non-economic activity do not seem to have received adequate treatment in census training programmes. Also hasty training programmes have not provided sufficient time to deal with enumerators problems relating to the concepts of 'industry'. Thus enumerators often fail to distinguish between 'occupation' and 'industry' during enumeration. Observation of field interviews has revealed that part of the difficulty arises from the fact that enumerators do not faithfully apply the instructions in the Enumerator's Manual neither do they read out the exact wording of the question relating to industry on the questionnaire when interviewing respondants.

19. Housing questions were asked by most of the countries in their censuses. Some countries had population and housing questions on the same questionnaire though in some instances the housing questions were asked only in urban areas. In a few other countries the housing census preceded the population census in a two-phased census enumeration programme.

20. Apart from the recommended topics, the Working Group on Recommendations for the 1980 round of censuses in Africa also endorsed a number of other topics as useful for investigation in censuses. The list of "other useful topics" include community level variables. These are: source of water supply, availability of electricity, availability of primary school and distance from nearest hospital/clinic/health centre. The information available at ECA indicates that only very few countries have attempted to collect information on community or locality level variables during their census field operations.

CENSUS EVALUATION PROGRAMMES

21. It is stated in the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses that "good census practice requires a careful consideration and evaluation

of the completeness and accuracy of the census results". It has also been indicated that the purpose of census evaluation is "first to provide users with some basic measures of the quality of the census data and hence some indication of the confidence with which the census results can be used for different purpose and, secondly, to provide census authorities with the information needed to plan and carry out improved censuses and surveys in the future".

22. In line with the above statement, the Working Group on Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses in Africa urged that "a post-enumeration survey for census coverage evaluation should be planned, organized and executed as an integral part of a population census and that content errors be evaluated by other methods such as demographic analyses".

23. In spite of the above recommendation and the recognition of the value of post-enumeration survey as a powerful tool for census coverage evaluation by many census organizers in the African region, it has not been widely used in African census programmes in the 1980 round. Even in the countries where post-enumeration census coverage checks have been carried out, the results have not been particularly encouraging for a variety of reasons.

24. The countries which have conducted post-enumeration surveys to evaluate their censuses during the period of the 1980 census programme include the following: Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta and Zambia. Five of the countries -- Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta -- carried out their census and post-enumeration survey programmes under the African Census Programme. It is therefore pertinent to point out that though the post-enumeration survey programmes of those five countries were conducted during the period of the 1980 round of censuses they were originally planned as part of the 1970 round. Thus at the time of writing this report, the information available at ECA indicates that, in effect, only four of the 26 countries which had completed their census field operations as part of the 1980 round of census have conducted post-enumeration surveys to evaluate their censuses. The results of those surveys have not been published.

25. The unsatisfactory experience of the few African countries which have conducted post-enumeration surveys in the 1960 and 1970 rounds of censuses together with cost constraint has tended to discourage several countries in the region from attempting post-enumeration surveys as part of their census evaluation programmes.

26. It has been reported in the Study on Methods and Problems of the 1970 round of African Population and Housing Censuses (E/CN.14/CAS.10/15) that some of the factors for the failure of PES programmes during the 1970 round of censuses were:

(a) movement of the population during the interval between the census and the PES
(b) unrecognizable boundaries of the sample areas
(c) a person often being known by different names
(d) same name being used by a large number of persons in an area
(e) general fatigue of the enumerators

27. The above factors still constitute major hurdles for the implementation of PES programmes but their effects could be minimized with careful planning and testing. In fact the failure of census organizers to foresee the effect of the above factors and to take appropriate measures to contain them may be attributed to the fact that PES had in many cases not been conceived and planned at the outset as an integral part of the overall census programme. In general, the PES had been considered as a separate exercise to be undertaken after the census and it was only discussed in passing, if at all, during the census preparatory activities. Often the decision to carry out a PES was taken very late. Thus its scope and objectives were considered only at the tail end of the census preparatory activities and no attempts were made to test the proposed PES programme in the pilot census which should properly be seen to be a full-dress rehearsal of the entire census programme. It is therefore not entirely surprising that administrative, financial and technical issues have jointly constituted seemingly unsurmountable problems in the implementation of PES programmes to evaluate coverage error in censuses in the African region.

28. The other methods for census evaluation include checks with independent record sources (e.g. civil registration records), other independent sample surveys, internal consistency checks and demographic analysis. However, reliable data from other sources are not always available and census analyses in the region have been rather meagre. The net result is that, in several instances the publication of census results does not include an account of the relative accuracy of the census data.

29. Since it is now generally accepted that figures of censuses, however carefully conducted, may not be absolutely accurate the recommendation that census evaluation be considered as an integral part of a census programme cannot be over-emphasized. Also, with the paucity of reliable data from other sources for census evaluation and considering that a well planned and executed post-enumeration survey is a very powerful method for evaluating census coverage error, it is recommended that despite the discouraging past experience African countries should include post-enumeration surveys for the evaluation of census data in their census programmes, if even on a limited scale.

PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF CENSUS RESULTS

30. As stated earlier, a census cannot be regarded as complete until the information collected is made available to potential users in a form suitable to their needs. In general, the census information required by most people is released in published form while data likely to be required by only few users are supplied in unpublished form. Provision is also made for the tabulation of some data only when required. Such tabulations may be produced at the expense of the requester.

31. The Working Group on Recommendations for the 1980 Population and Housing Censuses in Africa recommended that census publications should include volume(s) containing statistical tables as well as analytical and administrative reports. It was further stressed that efforts should be made to reduce to a minimum the time lag between the collection of the information and the publication of the results. The suggestions made to ensure timely publication of census results include the use of computer print-outs for offset printing of the census statistical tables.

32. It has also been recommended that census publications should include abstracts for the non-technical reader and that such abstracts should be widely distributed to policy-makers, planners and administrators. The exchange of publications between statistical offices in the region has also been stressed.

33. As stated earlier in the section on the progress of the 1980 round of censuses in the African region, census authorities have endeavoured to publish census volumes containing statistical tables after the collection and processing of census information. However, the long time-lag between the collection of the information and the publication of the detailed statistical tables is still a problem. An increasing number of countries are also including administrative and analytical reports in the census publication programmes. Some of the census administrative reports, however, do not provide full account of all the important issues in census operations. In particular, information on census costs in the African region is rather sketchy.

34. With respect to dissemination of census results, the seminars and workshops involving data producers and users which some countries have organized after the publication of the main statistical tables are likely to achieve the desired objective. However, the recommendation that abstracts of the census results for the non-technical general reader should also be published has not been taken up. There is also virtually no exchange of publications between statistical offices in the region. On the whole, therefore, there is considerable room for improvement in the area of dissemination of results in African census programmes.

35. The main purpose of a population and housing census as well as other socio-demographic data collection programmes is to provide essential information needed by decision-makers, planners and administrators. If the data collected will achieve the principal purpose then there is the need for continuous dialogue between the data producers and users during the determination of both the topics to be investigated and the details and manner of presentation of the results.

36. The desirability of data users conference at the preparatory phase of census programmes and the organization of seminars and workshops to coincide with the release of the results of major data collection programmes such as censuses have therefore been stressed.

37. A number of countries in the region have distributed the topics to be investigated in their censuses to potential census users for their comments which have been taken into consideration in the final revision of the list of topics. A few others have followed or plan to follow up the distribution of the topics with a conference involving the statistical organization and the users to discuss the topics and the relevant comments. Unfortunately, often the proposed tabulations are not discussed at such conferences nor are they circulated with the list of topics. It is suggested that in order to maximize the usefulness of the data users conferences, both the topics and proposed tabulations need to be discussed. This would ensure that not only would the most relevant topics be investigated but that tabulations with the appropriate specifications which would satisfy the immediate needs of policy-makers, planners and administrators would be produced on a priority basis.

38. Another development in the region which has the potential for the improvement in the utilization of census results is the establishment of population planning sections in Government Economic Planning and Development Ministries. The development may ensure adequate integration of socio-demographic variables in plan formulation and thus assure effective use of census results.

PROBLEMS IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING CENSUS PROGRAMMES

(a) General problems

39. At the last Joint Conference, some of the problems which were having adverse effect on census programmes in the African region were discussed. The problems included the following: insufficient time for census preparatory activities resulting in omission of some necessary pre-tests; non-adherence to census time-tables; inadequate census education/communication programmes; late acquisition of project inputs; inadequate office facilities and ineffective leadership on the part of census organizers.

40. An evaluation of census operations since the above discussion on census problems were held at the second session of the Joint Conference shows that, in general, the problems highlighted at that time still continue to impede progress of census programmes in the region though there has been significant improvement in the field of census education and communication in some countries. The unsatisfactory progress in implementing census programmes in several African countries may be due partly to the ad hoc nature of the machinery for censuses in the region.

41. The lack of permanent offices or even sections within central statistical organizations for censuses does not assure continuity in census work nor does it assure the timely formulation of census programmes and the early initiation of preparatory activities. In some countries the ad hoc census offices which are set up to implement census programmes are disbanded soon after census enumeration with the result that post-enumeration activities are unduly delayed, if at all completed. In fact, in at least one country in the region, the main statistical tables of the census undertaken during the 1970 round of censuses had not been published at the time this report was being written. The main reason for the long delay in publishing the statistical tables has been attributed to the fact that the statistical office which was supposed to carry on the activities of the census office did not have the personnel to continue the census work after the dissolution of the census office.

42. Another issue which has adversely affected the implementation of census programmes is the failure of some census organizers to appreciate fully the multiple purposes which project documents are intended to serve for various types of users. In fact, a review of the implementation of census programmes in the region reveals that in several instances some countries look on the census project document solely as a request to UNFPA or other donor agency for funding. Thus, the use of the document as an implementing guide is often overlooked or played down. Census organizational structure, staff requirements and work plan in project documents are, therefore, often different from what one finds on the ground at the project

implementation stage. It is therefore not surprising that some census programmes develop bottlenecks at critical stages and their completion unduly delayed.

43. Some political situations have also adversely affected the timely and successful completion of census programmes during the period under consideration. For instance, in Ghana the political situation since 1979 has accentuated other administrative problems to cause the postponment of the country's population census enumeration in the 1980 round of censuses twice. In the case of Chad, political disturbances have prevented the country from carrying out its first ever population census though it was one of the countries in the African Census Programme.

44. Financial constraints have also affected census programmes. As a result of the reduced level of financial assistance from external sources for population data collection, a number of African countries have had to bear higher proportion of the cost of their census programmes, in particular the payment of the salaries and honoraria of the large number of temporary field staff required for census enumeration. Most of the countries in the region, however, have financial problems hence Government inputs for census programmes either have not been forthcoming or their delivery have been delayed, often during critical stages of census programmes. Censuses in some countries, therefore, have had to be postponed and in others considerable delays have occured at the data processing and publication stages.

45. The poor state of the financial situation of a number of countries has also resulted in the tendency for governments to wait for full information on assistance requested from UNFPA or other donor agency before active preparations for censuses are initiated. If the information required is delayed then the census is either postponed or the preparatory activities rushed.

46. A related problem is the reduction in the level of external assistance during the implementation of a census programme though a country had been given grounds to expect a higher level of support at the start of the project. This situation has caused delays in the processing of census information in at least two countries in the region.

47. An appraisal of the general problems which have had adverse effect on African censuses in the 1980 round of censuses clearly shows that in the absence of well-established statistical organizations and a reasonably long history of census taking. African census programmes will have to be considered as national exercises which require the co-operative effort of several government agencies for their implementation. If such co-operative effort will become a reality then heads of census offices or statistical organizations need to provide effective leadership and African Governments have to demonstrate the political commitment for censuses by according census programmes the necessary effective priority status.

(b) Problems in connection with cartographic preparations

48. At the last Joint Conference, it was reported that the major problems relating to census mapping included the following: the casual approach and the slow pace of census cartographic preparations; lack of permanent cartographic units at census offices/statistical departments, reluctance of local staff to do field work owing to

low level of field allowances and the late arrival of vehicles and materials ordered for cartographic work. There has not been any appreciable improvement since the report on the 1980 round of African censuses presented to the last Joint Conference was prepared. In fact, in addition to the problems stated above, other problems have been encountered.

49. One major problem has been the late start of census preparatory activities including project formulation and its submission to donor agency or government for financial and technical assistance. As a result of the late start, sufficient time has often not been allowed for the cartographic preparations. Thus cartographic work is rushed and invariably the enumeration area maps which are prepared are not tested before the census enumeration. Problems of boundary identification and control of coverage are therefore encountered during the enumeration.

50. Non-availability of suitable base maps has also added to the difficulties of census mapping in the region. The situation in this regard is made worse by the fact that cartographic units of census offices have often not been thorough in their preparation of the inventory of the available maps and the acquisition of such maps. It must, however, be pointed out that in some instances it has been very difficult for census offices to acquire some maps because of security reasons.

51. A related problem is the lack of effective collaboration between census cartographic units and other relevant government departments. This situation has prevented the maximization of the use of the available maps and other facilities including local expertise.

52. Changes in administrative boundaries while census mapping is already in progress and administrative units without adequate boundary descriptions have also created problems in census cartographic preparations. In some instances, the boundary descriptions provided by the concerned governmental authority are different from what is found in the field.

53. Other issues which have adversely affected census mapping are: inadequate provision for final printing of census maps; lack of proper training for cartographic field staff and inadequate training programmes at some overseas institutions.

54. In a few instances also, experts assigned to countries have not been effective either because of the relatively short duration of their contracts or because they have attempted map work of higher precision than necessary for census purposes.

(e) Problems relating to data processing

55. Machine processing of census results still continue to be one of the most serious bottlenecks in census programmes. Though assistance is being given in this field through advisory missions, training of local personnel and the provision of hardware not much headway has been made in solving the problems which were reported at the last Joint Conference. The problems which were discussed then included: lack of material resources and experienced professionals; lack of effective communication between statisticians (or subject-matter specialists) and data processing personnel;

bottleneck at the editing stage due mainly to a combination of human and hardware limitations and the lack of appropriate software for tabulation as well as the inefficiency of processing personnel.

56. In addition to the above problems financial constraints have resulted in the substitution of United Nations Volunteers (in data processing) for posts of data processing experts. Unfortunately not only do such persons generally need to work under experienced experts but also it is becoming difficult to recruit them. In two countries, though the census field operations had been completed at the time this report was being written, it had still not been possible to recruit the UN Volunteers.

57. In a number of cases, also there have been considerable delays in the delivery of equipment which have already been approved in project documents. Some countries have had to wait for one to two years for the delivery of data entry equipment for the processing of their census returns.

CIVIL REGISTRATION

58. African countries are being encouraged to institute or improve on their births/deaths registration and vital statistics systems to obtain data to supplement results of censuses and demographic sample surveys. This is to ensure the availability of socio-economic and demographic data during intercensal periods and also on a continuing basis.

59. At the last Joint Conference an account of the status of the civil registration system in each member country was presented. The report showed that births and deaths registration systems in 5 countries could be classified as satisfactory since the coverage at the national level was around 90 per cent. In one other country only the registration of births could be considered as satisfactory. Of the remaining 44 countries, 11 had instituted projects for the improvement and expansion of births and deaths registration systems and 15 had initiated discussions or drafted project documents in respect of civil registration and vital statistics systems.

60. Financial, technical and managerial problems as discussed during the last Joint Conference have impeded progress in this field but a few countries have had satisfactory results with the experimental phase of their registration programmes. Technical assistance has been provided to countries with on going projects and a few others have been assisted to formulate plans for the improvement and expansion of existing registration systems. Discussions have also been initiated in 3 countries with a view to encouraging them to institute plans for efficient registration systems. In view of the decreasing financial assistance from external sources, however, formulation of project requests have been on a low key.

61. It is, however, suggested that countries with poor registration systems should take steps to improve the systems on a modest scale after the completion of their population censuses in the 1980 round. The RAGDS could be requested to provide technical assistance at the appropriate time.

DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEYS

62. During the period under review the activities in the area of demographic data collection in the African region has been mainly in the planning or the implementation of their population and housing census programmes. Also countries in the region are being encouraged to plan and undertake demographic sample surveys within integrated household survey programmes to enable them obtain demographic and socio-economic data from the household sector on a continuing basis.

63. The African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) has been instituted to encourage and assist countries in the region to develop the capability for the continuing programme of household surveys and already 18 countries have been enrolled in the Programme and others have expressed the desire to be enrolled after the completion of their censuses in the 1980 round of censuses. 7 of the 18 countries have started implementing their survey programmes which are expected to have demographic component.

64. Under the circumstances the pace of activities in the field of ad hoc demographic sample surveys has been rather low during the period under consideration. The major activities in this field during the period have been the processing and analysis of surveys already carried out though at least one country, Togo, conducted an Infant and Child Mortality Survey.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

65. It may be recalled that the African Census Programme (ACP) was instituted with funding by UNFPA to provide financial and technical support to 22 countries in the region to plan and conduct their population censuses during the 1970 World Census Programmes. The ACP formally ended in 1977 but due to the continued need for assistnace by many African countries, the ACP has been replaced by the Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS) also with UNFPA funding.

66. During the period under review the RASDS continued to provide technical assistnace to member States of ECA in population censuses, demographic surveys and civil registration. The RASDS has a team of six regional advisers in demographic statistics, data processing, cartography and civil registration. The full list of the RASDS professional team as of 1 July 1983 is given in Annex II.

67. Since the last Joint Conference the regional advisers have undertaken over 60 missions to over 40 African countries. The missions covered project formulation as well as advisory service and assistance in the implementation of projects. Also some of the missions were undertaken to monitor progress in on-going projects and/or to train local personnel in specific fields. A number of the missions were undertaken in response to requests from Governments or at the initiation of UNFPA headquarters or UNFPA country representatives. Other missions were initiated by the RASDS as part of the strategy of monitoring the progress of demographic data collection activities in ECA member countries. Such missions, however, were undertaken only with the concurrence of the Governments concerned.

68. In addition to the assistance being offered through RASDS, UNFPA has also been providing assistance to countries in the fields of population censuses and other demographic data collection activities through the provision of country experts in census organization, cartography, data processing, demographic data analysis and civil registration. Financial assistance has also been provided for equipment and training of local personnel.

69. Some countries in the region have also received assistance in implementing their census and other demographic data collection programmes on bilateral basis. Such assistance has been provided in the form of experts in specific fields, equipment and funds for the payment of local costs.

70. It must, however, be pointed out that compared to the period of the 1970 round of census, though more countries have asked for and received assistance for their census programmes in the 1980 round from UNFPA, the level of support at the country level seems to have decreased. The indications are that countries in the region have to bear increasing proportions of the costs of their census and civil registration programmes in particular the local costs of such programmes. It is thus essential that African Governments accord population data collection activities the appropriate status in their development programmes if the achievements in this field in the 1970s are to be improved or even maintained.

STATUS OF 1980-ROUND OF POPULATION CENSUSES

Sub-region and country	Date/Proposed date of Census Enumeration	Present status
NORTH AFRICA		
Algeria	February 1977	Census results published
Egypt	November 1976	Census results have been published in three volumes. These are: Vol. I Social and economic characteristics of the population; Vol. II Fertility internal migration and migration of workers and students; Vol. III Housing conditions of households in urban rural zones
Libyan Arab* Jamahiriya	July/August 1983	Census preparatory activities in progress. At the request of the Government, ECA provided advisory service in census cartography and finalization of questionnaire, tabulation, programme and analytical framework.
Morocco	September 1982	Census enumeration completed and data processing in progress.
Sudan*	February/March 1983	ECA advisory services provided census enumeration completed and processing of data in progress.
Tunisia	May 1975	Census reports published as indicated in ECA document E/ECA/PSD.2/28 presented to the second session of the Joint Conference. No further information received at ECA regarding other census publications since then.
WEST AFRICA		
Benin	March 1979	Census enumeration completed. Data processing has been delayed. Preparation of statistical tables still in progress.
Cape Verde	June 1980	Statistical tables of census results published. No information on publication of census analytical report.

WEST AFRICA (Cont'd.)

The Gambia*	April 1983	Census enumeration completed and processing of data in progress.
Ghana	March 1984	The census was originally planned to take place in March 1980 and a project document was prepared by the Government with ECA assistance and approved by UNFPA. Due to subsequent political developments the census enumeration data has been postponed twice. The Government is now testing the feasibility of combining census enumeration with population registration and issue of identity cards. It is expected that the tests would be completed early enough for the census enumeration to take place as planned.
Guinea	February 1983	Census enumeration completed. ECA provided technical advisory services in the final preparations and also during the enumeration.
Guinea-Bissau	April 1979	Financial difficulties delayed the completion of the census data processing.
Ivory Coast*	April 1975	Census results published.
Liberia*	February 1984	Project document formulated with the assistance of ECA and submitted to UNFPA. Cartographic preparations undertaken under another UNFPA - financed project - Demographic Surveys Phase II. Due to problems in the financing of local costs, Government has not made final decision regarding census enumeration data.
Mali	December 1976	Final census results published in five volumes. Plans have not yet been initiated for the next census expected to be carried out in 1986.
Mauritania*	December 1976 (Sedentary population) Jan-April 1977 (Nomadic population)	Census statistical tables on sedentary and nomadic population published. No information on publication of analytical and administrative reports.

WEST AFRICA (Cont'd.)

Niger*	May-July 1977 (Nomadic population in Northern areas); November 1977 (Sedentary population and rest of nomadic population)	It was expected that census statistical tables would be produced for each department and a methodological report published in two volumes. There is however no information on current status of the publication plan.
Nigeria*		No information on the next population census is available. The last census was conducted in 1973 but the results were cancelled by the Government
Senegal*	April 1976	Census statistical tables and methodological report have been published but no information on the publication of the analytical reports on socio-economic activities, education and migration.
Sierra Leone*	December 1985	The last census was conducted in 1974 and it had been expected that the next census would have been conducted in 1984 to fall within the period of the 1980 round of censuses but due to late start of census preparatory activities the census enumeration is now expected to be conducted in December 1985. Project document has been formulated and submitted to UNFPA.
Togo	November 1981	Census enumeration completed and data processing in progress.
Upper Volta*	December 1975	Census results including analysis published. Preliminary plans for the next population census in 1985 initiated.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Angola	1984 or later	Project document prepared and approved by UNFPA. The census had originally been planned for 1982 but it is now expected that a pilot census which would cover the entire Province of Luanda would be carried out in 1983 and a census of the entire country undertaken in 1984 or later
Burundi*	August 1979	Census data processing completed and the first volume of census results is expected to be published in August 1983.

CENTRAL AFRICA (Cont'd.)

Cameroon*	April 1976	Census results have been published in four volumes. No plans have been initiated for the next census.
Central African Republic*	December 1975	Though the last census was conducted during the period of the 1980 round of censuses, it was meant to be part of the 1970 round. Results of the last census have been published but there is no information on plans for the next census.
Chad*		Due to the political situation a population census was not conducted during the 1970-round and there are no plans yet to conduct a census in 1980-round.
Congo*	December 1984	Project document formulated and approved by UNFPA. Preparatory activities in progress.
Equatorial Guinea	July 1983	Project document formulated and approved by UNFPA. Census preparatory activities in final stages.
Gabon	August 1980	Census enumeration was completed and provisional results prepared but the Government rejected the census figure as being a gross underestimate.
Rwanda	August 1978	Census data processing completed. No information regarding publications issued.
Sao Tome and Principe	August 1981	Census enumeration completed and data processing expected to be completed in 1983.
Zaire	December 1982	Pilot census conducted in August 1982 and final preparatory activities including cartographic preparations in progress. Census enumeration originally planned for August 1983 but has been postponed to December 1983.

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Botswana	August 1981	Census data processing completed and the following publications issued: - Census Administrative/Technical Report and National Statistical Tables - Guide to Villages and Towns in Botswana - Summary Statistics on Small Areas.

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (Cont'd.)

Comoros	September 1980 and July 1981; April/May 1982	Census enumeration was conducted initially in September 1980 and July 1981 and the provisional results prepared. The Government however, rejected the results and requested UNFPA for assistance to repeat census enumeration in 10 localities in April/May 1982.
Djibouti	January 1982	Census enumeration completed and data processing in progress.
Ethiopia*	April 1984	Project document has been formulated and approved by UNFPA. Cartographic preparation and other pre-enumeration preparatory activities in progress.
Kenya	August 1979	Census enumeration completed. Analysis completed but publication of report pending.
Lesotho	April 1976	Census enumeration completed and results published in four volumes.
Madagascar*	February 1983	The last census was conducted in 1975 as part of the African Census Programme and the census results have been published. No plans have been initiated yet for the next census.
Malawi	September/October 1977	Census enumeration completed and results published. Work on census analysis started in 1982 with UNFPA assistance.
Mauritius*	March-May 1983;	Population and Housing Census undertaken in 2 rounds. The first round involved the listing of buildings and housing units and the second the population census enumeration. ECA advisory services in demographic statistics, cartography and data processing provided.
Mozambique	August 1980	Census enumeration completed. Machine editing and preparation of final tables was expected to be completed by end of 1982.
Seychelles	May-August 1977	Census enumeration undertaken over a period of four months. Census report has been published.

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (Cont'd.)

Somalia*	February 1975	ECA advisory service in review of census analysis and preparation of outline of analytical/methodological report provided. Due to initial rejection of census results the tabulation and publication of 1975 census statistical tables have been delayed. Project document for next census in 1985 has been prepared and approved by UNFPA. ECA advisory service in census cartography being provided.
Swaziland	August 1976	Census results published in 1980 in three volumes: Volume 1 - Administrative Report and analysis Volume 2 - Detailed Statistical Tables Volume 3 - Population Projections.
Tanzania	August 1978	Census results expected to be published in 8 volumes. 7 volumes published and the last volume is at the printing stage.
Uganda	January 1980	Census enumeration undertaken but due to the inadequate preparations for the entire census programme and the political situation the census programme could not be successfully completed. Processing of the census returns have not been carried out yet, most of the completed census questionnaires have been lost. Plans have however been initiated to process the remaining completed questionnaires. Government has also requested UN assistance to conduct a demographic survey to provide data required for Governments development planning programmes.
Zambia	August/September 1980	Census enumeration completed and preliminary results published. Data processing in progress.
Zimbabwe	August/September 1982	Census enumeration completed and preliminary results published. Processing of data in progress.

* Countries which participated in the United Nations African Census Programme (ACP)

ECA/RASDS REGIONAL ADVISERS IN DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Name	Assignment
K.Z. de Graft-Johnson	Deputy Chief, Statistics Division ECA/Project Officer
W.A. Colecraft	Demographic Statistics/Civil Registration (English speaking countries)
Hamady Sow	Demographic Statistics (French-speaking countries)
B.F. Benzine	Data Processing
Roger Kare	Cartography (English-speaking countries)
Oumar Bocoum	Cartography (French-speaking countries)
Abdou-Karim Diop	Civil Registration (French speaking countries)